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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Listing of claims:

   1. (Original): A method of configuring an appliance comprising:

sending an electronic data file containing configuration information to the appliance; and automatically configuring the appliance in response to receiving the electronic data file.

   2. (Original): The method of claim 1, wherein the configuration information is in a markup language.

   3. (Original): The method of claim 2, wherein the configuration information is in XML.

   4. (Original): The method of claim 1, wherein the electronic data file is embedded in an email, and further comprising:

encrypting the electronic data file prior to sending it to the appliance.

   5. (Original): The method of claim 4 further comprising:

decrypting the email after being received by the appliance.

   6. (Original): The method of claim 5 further comprising:

authenticating the email after being received by the appliance.

   7. (Original): The method of claim 6 further comprising:

checking that the email has a proper authorization before configuring the appliance.

   8. (Original): The method of claim I further comprising:

allowing access through a firewall to a particular IP address in response to

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receiving the electronic data file.

9. (Original): The method of claim 8 further comprising:

allowing the particular IP address to modify the appliance through an interactive session.

10. (Original): The method of claim 1 further comprising:

authenticating the electronic data file by the appliance.

11. (Original): A method of configuring an appliance comprising:

receiving an email containing configuration information; and

configuring the appliance based on the configuration information.

12. (Original): The method of claim 11 further comprising:

decrypting the email.

13. (Original): The method of claim 11 further comprising:

authenticating the configuration information.

14. (Original): The method of claim 13 further comprising:

allowing access through a firewall to a particular IP address responsive to receiving the email.

15. (Original): The method of claim 14 further comprising:

allowing access by the particular IF address to the appliance via an interactive menu.

16. (Original): The method of claim 15, wherein the interactive menu is part of a browser.

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17. (Original): The method of claim 11 further comprising:

sending a confirmation email indicating that the appliance was reconfigured successfully.

18. (Original): A method of configuring multiple appliances comprising:

sending an email containing configuration information for multiple appliances; and the multiple appliances configuring themselves based on the configuration information.

19. (Original): The method of claim 18 further comprising:

encrypting the configuration information in the email.

20. (Original): The method of claim 19 further comprising:

the multiple appliances authenticating the email before configuring themselves based on the configuration information.

21. (Original): The method of claim 18 further comprising:

the multiple appliances authenticating the email before configuring themselves based on the configuration information.

22. (Original): A method of communicating with a network comprising:

receiving an email containing a user identifier; and

allowing access through a firewall of the network to an IP address corresponding to the user identifier in response to receiving the email.

23. (Original): The method of claim 22 further comprising:

authenticating the email.

24. (Original): The method of claim 22 further comprising:

decrypting the email.

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25. (Original): The method of claim 22, wherein access through the firewall is allowed for a predetermined time interval.

26. (Original): The method of claim 22 further comprising:
sending a confirmation email indicating that access was allowed through the firewall.

27. (Original): The method of claim 22, wherein the user identifier is the IF address.

28. (Original): The method of claim 27, wherein access through the firewall is allowed for a predetermined time interval.

29. (Original): An article comprising:
a storage medium which stores instructions, the instructions when executed, causing systems to:
receive an electronic data file containing configuration information; and
configure an appliance based on the configuration information.

30. (Original): The article of claim 29, wherein the storage medium further comprises instructions, the instructions, when executed, cause systems to:
decrypt the electronic data file.

31. (Original): The article of claim 29, wherein the storage medium further comprises instructions, the instructions, when executed, cause systems to:
authenticate the configuration information.

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